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August 7, 2019

RE: T28b – Witte Road Phase II Open House

On July 16th the City held an Open House to present the overall plan for the Witte Road Phase II Improvements to the area residents. This phase of improvements continues the improvement of the Witte Road corridor from the vicinity of SE 249th Place to SE 256th Street. The primary improvements include pavement rehabilitation, the addition of non-motorized facilities (sidewalk on the west side only and bike lanes on both sides), retaining walls to increase corridor width in key areas, left turn pockets at key intersections and undergrounding aerial utilities. The plan includes closing the 220th Street intersection with Witte Road.

The City's determination that the 220th Avenue/Witte Road intersection is best closed is based on two main factors; primarily safety risks associated with documented higher travel speeds¹ on the inbound leg of 220th and its proximity interferes with the center left turn pockets at SE 254th Place. These higher speeds are a current risk to neighbors that live in the vicinity of the 220th/Witte Road intersection, as well as a much greater hazard to pedestrians when sidewalk facilities are installed as part of the project. It is understood that there are several opinions from Lake Lucerne residents that they do not agree with this assessment and are focused on reasons to keep at least the inbound leg of 220th/Witte Road open.

In response to feedback heard at the July 16th open house, the City will be working on options to improve the alignment of 256th Street as well as the intersection between 256th Street and 220th Avenue SE.

The project team will be working to increase the amount of information available to the public on our project website. You may sign up to receive notifications when new information is added by signing up for eNotices on the Maple Valley website. Click on What's Happening/Sign Up for eNotices, fill out the Sign up information, and select News Releases from the News section. Project updates for this project (and others) will be triggered under the News Release option.

We will plan to meet with the community late fall to share final roadway alignment plans including any planned adjustments to 256th and 220th intersection. We appreciate your interest in this project.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact City Engineer, William (Bill) Bullock, PE at 425-413-8800 or by email at bill.bullock@maplevalleywa.gov

¹ A traffic study was conducted on 10/23/2018. A copy of the study and supporting traffic data can be found on our project website: www.maplevalleywa.gov/departments-services/public-works/capital-improvement-projects/current-transportation-improvement-projects - Select T28b Ph2; Witte Road Improvements